BAT MAN
THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS
A MIND-BOGGLING MYSTERY: "THE ONLY CRIME IN TOWN!"
30c
NO. 280
OCT.
30430
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
ONE O'CLOCK!
TIME FOR CRIME TO STOP DEAD IN GOTHAM CITY!
ERNIE CHUA 1972
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BATMAN
THE MURDEROUS AGE OLD LURE OF GOLD WAS HIDDEN BY A DEADLY WEB OF DOUBLE-DEALING -- AND THE BATMAN FOUND HIMSELF IN A 3-WAY BATTLE ROYAL WHERE THE UNDERWORLD DID WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT -- PUT A STOP TO CRIME IN GOTHAM... WITH ONE EXCEPTION...
The ONLY CRIME IN TOWN!
STORY BY: DAVID V. REED
ART BY: ERNIE CHUA and FRANK GIACOIA
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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A Grant Gardner Scan - God Bless Our Troops and our Allies.

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TIME: 12:55 A.M. THE SETUP-- THE MAIN OFFICE OF *ROYAL PUBLISHING*. ALL THE ELEMENTS ARE IN PLACE FOR A CLASSIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CRIME IN *GOTHAM CITY* AND ITS IMPLACABLE FOE-- *THE BATMAN!*

HURRY, *TORCH*-- WE GOT ONLY *FIVE MINUTES* LEFT!

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO *AUGIE* FOR PULLIN' THE *LARABEE* JOB *AFTER HOURS!*

IT'S TAKIN' LONGER THAN I THOUGHT!

WRONG!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED AT ALL!

THE BATMAN!

¡WHOA!¡ HOLD IT, MIKE-- ONE O'CLOCK! WE'RE OUTA TIME!
RIGHT! EVEN IF WE WIN, WE LOSE!
WE GIVE UP, BATMAN!
THERE'S ANOTHER ROD IN MY LEG-HOLSTER! IT'S ALL YOURS!
HUH? IF THIS IS A TRICK, IT'S THE BEST I'VE SEEN IN A LONG TIME!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
NOTHIN', BATMAN-- NOTHIN'!
AND MOMENTS LATER, THE UNRESISTING PRISONERS MARCH OUT WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A MURMUR...
SEND THE WAGON, COMMISSIONER! I'M MAKING A DELIVERY!

TIME: 1:35 A.M. *THE BATMAN'S* ACCOUNT OF THE BAFFLING EPISODE INTRIGUES A ROUTINE PRESS BRIEFING AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...AND AT EXACTLY *ONE O'CLOCK* THEY SIMPLY SURRENDERED--EVEN GAVE UP A GUN I HADN'T GOT TO YET!

FROM WHAT I'D OVERHEARD--ESPECIALLY THAT OMINOUS REMARK ABOUT *AUGIE'S* FATE --

--THEY WERE *FEARFUL* OF CONTINUING PAST THAT HOUR!

EXTRAORDINARY! LET'S CHECK THIS OUT!

WITHIN MOMENTS, A QUICK ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CITYWIDE LOG REVEALS SOME REMARKABLE STATISTICS!

LOOK AT *THIS!* FOR A WEEK--INCLUDING TONIGHT--THERE HASN'T BEEN *A MAJOR CRIME* COMMITTED BETWEEN ONE AND TWO *A.M.!*

SURE--SOME MUGGINGS, STICKUPS, CRIMES OF PASSION... BUT NOTHING BIG, NOTHING ORGANIZED--WITH ONE EXCEPTION...

...THE *LARABEE* JOB--FOUR NIGHTS AGO, WHERE THE ALARM WENT OFF AT 1:24--AND FROM WHAT YOU HEARD--

--WAS PULLED BY *AUGIE*, WHO WAS KILLED THE NEXT DAY, SHOT TO DEATH, *MOBSTER* STYLE--

--AS IF A *CRIME-CURFEW* HAD BEEN ORDERED... BETWEEN ONE AND TWO *A.M.!*

WHEN *AUGIE* VIOLATED IT, HE WAS *EXECUTED!*

WHO COULD ISSUE SUCH AN ORDER--AND BE ABLE TO *ENFORCE* IT?

AND WHY?

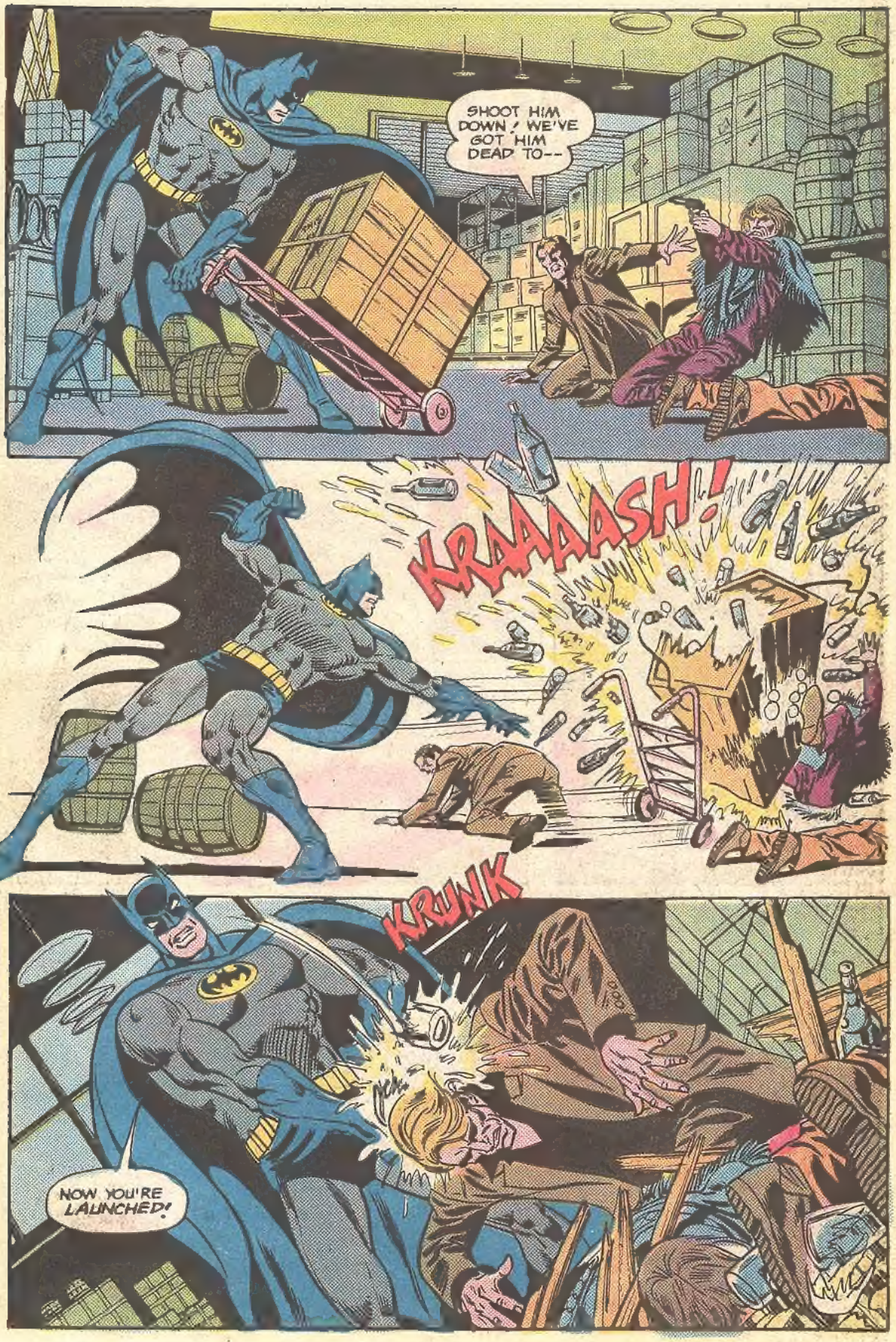
GENTLEMEN, YOU'LL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW--WHEN I FIND OUT!

ADIOS!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

NEXT MORNING... THE PENTHOUSE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE--MILLIONAIRE SOCIALITE, PLAYBOY, PHILANTHROPIST--AND PUBLIC COUNTERPART OF THE BATMAN...
SEEN THE PAPERS, ALFRED? "MYSTERIOUS CRIME CURFEW HITS GOTHAM!"
"POLICE ACKNOWLEDGE EXISTENCE OF A MYSTERIOUS TRUCE IN CRIME -- A QUIET HOUR, BETWEEN ONE AND TWO A.M...."
YES, MASTER BRUCE...QUITE A SPLASH!
THERE ARE THREE OR FOUR BOSSES IN THIS TOWN WITH MUSCLE ENOUGH TO IMPOSE SUCH A CURFEW AND MAKE IT STICK!
BUT THE ONE BEHIND IT MAY WELL HAVE LEFT A CALLING CARD--IN ALGIE'S CORPSE!
EARLY THAT NIGHT, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S BALLISTICS BUREAU...
WE GOT FOUR SLUGS, BATMAN--ONE IN FAIR SHAPE...25 CALIBER, LEFT-TWIST RIFLING --VERY UNUSUAL...
A SPANISH DERRINGER! MAXIE FLACK'S FAVORITE--
--AND MAXIE WORKS FOR BIG JAKE HACKETT!
HOURS PASS... FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT, THE BATMAN'S PATIENT SURVEILLANCE CONTINUES... FOCUSSED ON THE COMINGS AND GOINGS BELOW AT THE LOTUSLAND CLUB... OPERATIONAL CENTER FOR THE BIG JAKE HACKETT GANG...
SO FAR, NOTHING!
BUT THE CRITICAL TIME--IF ANY--IS STILL AHEAD...
LOTUS LAND
TIME: 12:50 A.M.
A TRUCK--TAKING OFF FROM THE CLUB'S PARKING LOT--JUST BEFORE CURFEW!

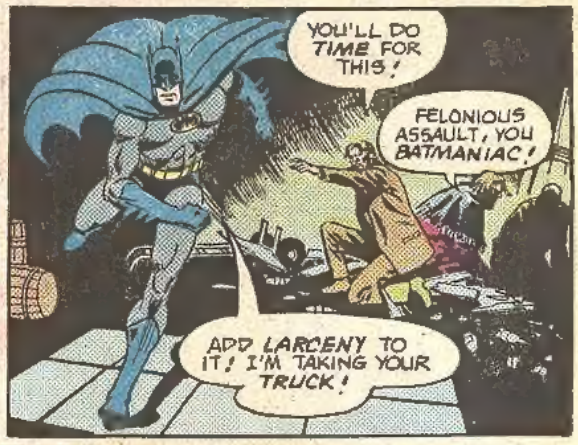
HEADING UPTOWN--WITH AN EMPTY TRUCK!
PLANNING TO COME BACK LOADED?
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER--AT THE UPPER WEST SIDE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT...
STOPPING! WE'RE HERE!
FOR WHAT?
STUART and CO. INC.
GOING IN--THROUGH THE TRANSOM!
TEN SECONDS LATER...
SUITS ME TOO!
THE BATMAN!
WAIT--
--FOR WHAT?
POW

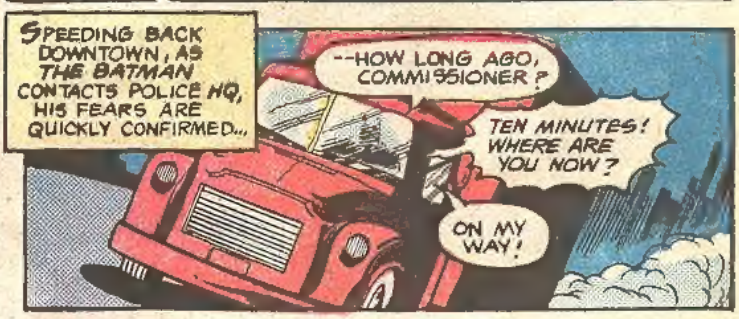

SHOOT HIM DOWN! WE'VE GOT HIM DEAD TO--
KRAAAASH!
KRUNK
NOW YOU'RE LAUNCHED!

YOU'RE CRAZY, BATMAN--FLIPPED OUT--BREAKIN' IN ON US--IN OUR OWN PLACE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE WORK FOR BIG JAKE--AND HE OWNS THE STUART COMPANY! THIS IS HIS WAREHOUSE!

THEN WHY'D YOU COME IN THROUGH THE TRANSOM--WITH GUNS DRAWN?
WE CAME TO PICK UP WINE FOR THE CLUB--FOUND THE TRANSOM OPEN! IT LOOKED LIKE SOMEBODY MIGHTA BEEN IN HERE!

I'VE BEEN DECOYED!


YOU'LL DO TIME FOR THIS!
FELONIOUS ASSAULT, YOU BATMANIAC!
ADD LARCENY TO IT! I'M TAKING YOUR TRUCK!


SPEEDING BACK DOWNTOWN, AS THE BATMAN CONTACTS POLICE HQ, HIS FEARS ARE QUICKLY CONFIRMED...
--HOW LONG AGO, COMMISSIONER?
TEN MINUTES! WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
ON MY WAY!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD--SUITE 1606--THE GOTHAM PLAZA HOTEL...
THAT'S AMOS GOODWIN, A COIN DEALER IN TOWN FOR THE NUMISMATIC CONVENTION! HE HAD SOME PARCELS WORTH $36,000!
ABOUT 1:15, TWO MASKED TORPEDOES GOT IN HERE, APPARENTLY WITH PASS-KEYS... PISTOL-WHIPPED HIM AND TOOK IT ALL!

MR. GOODWIN, WHY DIDN'T YOU PUT YOUR VALUABLES IN THE HOTEL SAFE?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THEY'D EXPECT THEM TO BE--BUT THEY KNEW SOMEHOW!
CONTINUED ON 35th PAGE FOLLOWING.

AQUAMAN™ "TWINKIES AND KELP"
A ROCKETSHIP CRASHES THROUGH THE OCEAN AND HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE FABLED UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS.
MERA, I MUST SAVE THE KELP CROP. THAT ROCKET IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THIS KELP FARM.
USING HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS, AQUAMAN SUMMONS A GIANT ATLANTIS SEA HORSE TO CARRY HIM TO THE ROCKETSHIP.
MOTHER OF PEARL, MAN, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO DESTROY OUR KELP FARMS?
YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG, AQUAMAN--
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I SAY-- YOU'RE ALL WRONG...
MY NAME IS COLONEL KELP. WOULD I TRY TO DESTROY THE KELP FARMS? NEVER! I'M HERE TO INTRODUCE A GREAT TASTE TREAT TO YOUR GREAT ATLANTIS.
HOSTESS® "TWINKIES"? WHAT STRANGE NAMES YOU LAND PEOPLE HAVE.
BUT THEY TASTE DELICIOUS. GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE.
WITH CREAMED FILLING, TOO!
MMMMM... OUT OF THIS SPHERE! GREAT TASTE! HOSTESS® "TWINKIES"! TRUE, WE HAVE NOTHING LIKE THIS IN ATLANTIS! NOW WE CAN ENJOY DELICIOUS HOSTESS® "TWINKIES" HERE IN ATLANTIS, TOO!
KELP-- YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP. OH- AND- ER- SORRY ABOUT YOUR ROCKETSHIP- IT GOT STUCK IN THE KELP, KELP.
Twinkies
Twinkies
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® "TWINKIES"

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ON YOUR NEWSSTAND--THIS SUMMER!

A NEW STAR IS RISING IN THE DC GALAXY OF GREATNESS! WE'VE SHOCKED YOU WITH OUR SUPER-STAR HEROES--NOW WE'RE GOING TO THRILL YOU AGAIN--WITH THE--

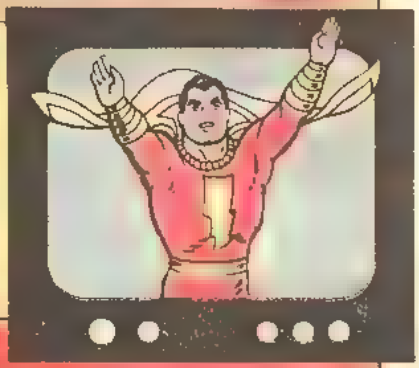
DC TV SERIES

A DC TV COMIC

SHAZAM!

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE--STOLEN! THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL ON A CRIME-FIGHTING CROSS-COUNTRY JOURNEY...A NEW LIFE FOR BILLY BATSON... AND THEN SIVANA KIDNAPS THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS! CAN OUR SATURDAY MORNING SUPER-STAR KEEP AMERICA FROM PLUNGING INTO LEADERLESS CHAOS?

SHAZAM #26--ON SALE AUGUST 12TH!



ISIS!

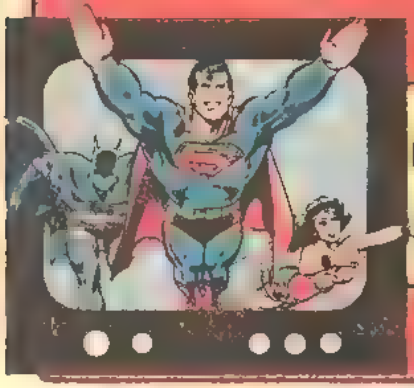
SPRINGING FROM SHAZAM TO HER OWN MAG...AND INTO DEADLY DANGER FROM THE SINISTER SCARAB! WILL ANDREA THOMAS' SECRET BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD... AND WILL SHE EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND OUT?

ISIS #1--ON SALE NOW!

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER!

THE SWEATHOGS ARE SWEATING IT OUT--THEY'RE ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR LEADER! NO, MR. WOODMAN HASN'T CANNED KOTTER--KOTTER'S QUITTING! WILL JAMES BUCHANAN HIGH EVER BE THE SAME?

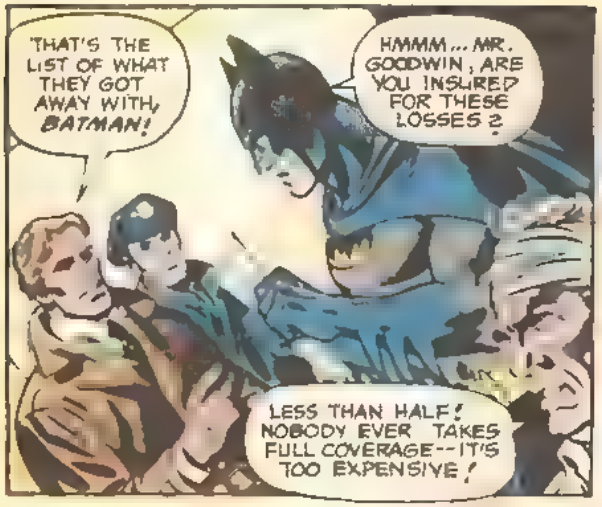
WELCOME BACK, KOTTER--#1--ON SALE AUG. 5TH!

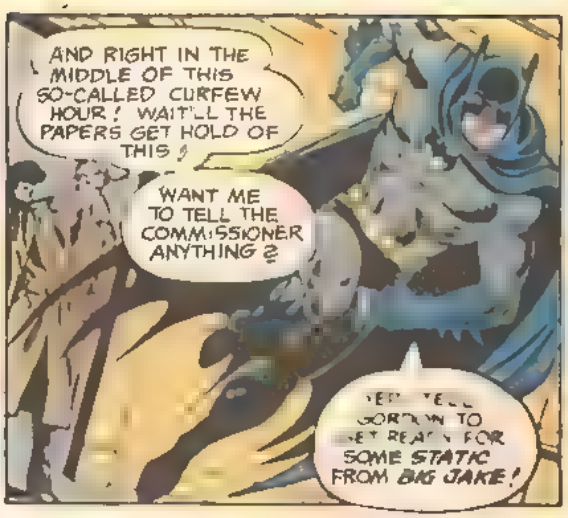


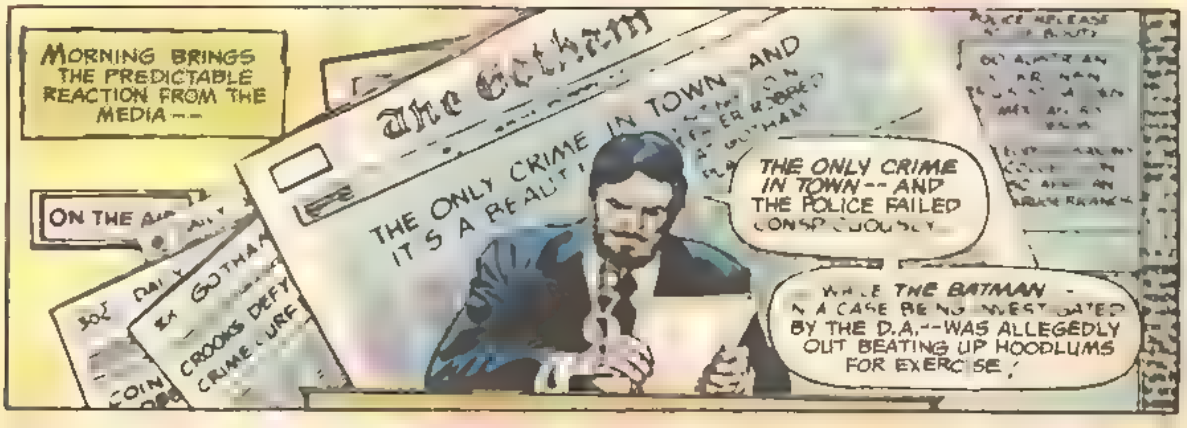
SUPER FRIENDS!

SUPER-HEROES HAVE SUPER-HELPERS--BUT SO DO THE SUPER-VILLAINS! FIVE FURIOUS FOES--BACKED BY A SINISTER SECOND TEAM. BUT THERE'S A GREATER DANGER STILL--A TRAITOR WITHIN THE HALL OF JUSTICE ITSELF!

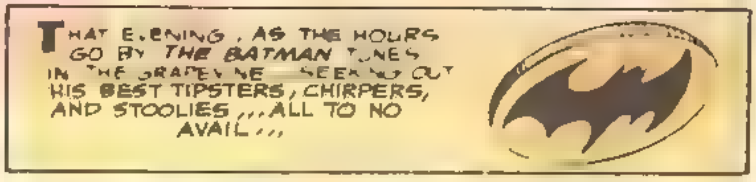
SUPER FRIENDS #1--ON SALE AUG. 26TH!

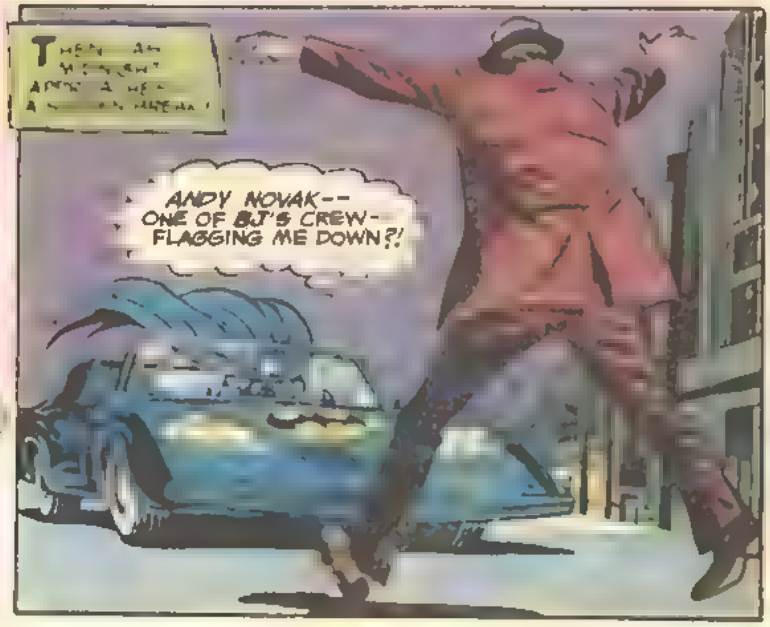

THAT'S THE LIST OF WHAT THEY GOT AWAY WITH, BATMAN!
HMMM... MR. GOODWIN, ARE YOU INSURED FOR THESE LOSSES?
LESS THAN HALF! NOBODY EVER TAKES FULL COVERAGE--IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE!

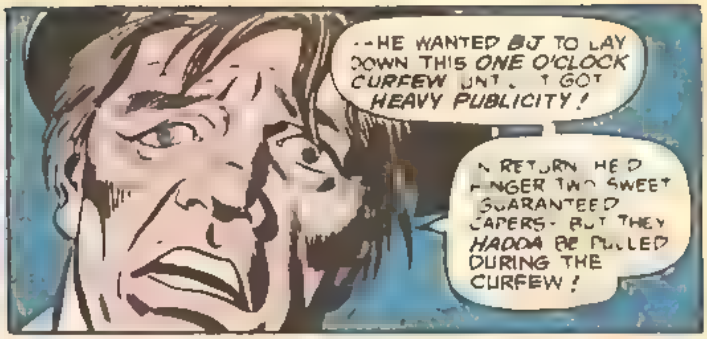

AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SO-CALLED CURFEW HOUR! WAIT'LL THE PAPERS GET HOLD OF THIS!
WANT ME TO TELL THE COMMISSIONER ANYTHING?
SOME STATIC FROM BIG JAKE!

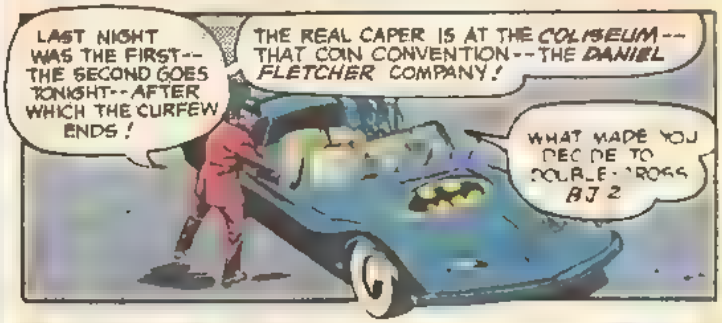

MORNING BRINGS THE PREDICTABLE REACTION FROM THE MEDIA--
The Gotham
THE ONLY CRIME IN TOWN AND IT'S A REALTY!
THE ONLY CRIME IN TOWN -- AND THE POLICE FAILED CONSPICUOUSLY
WHILE THE BATMAN - IN A CASE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE D.A.--WAS ALLEGEDLY OUT BEATING UP HOODLUMS FOR EXERCISE!

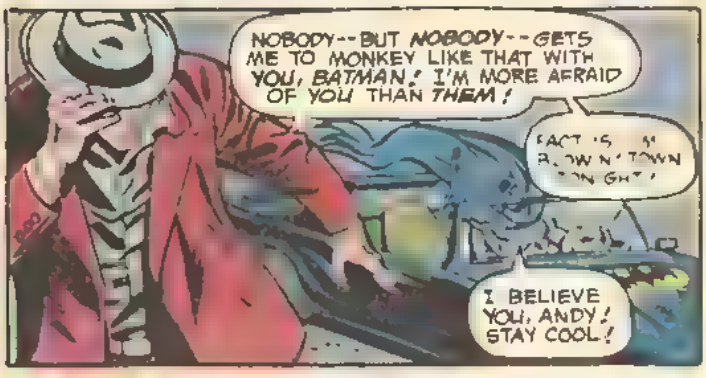
TERRIBLE MASTER BRUCE! WHAT AN UPROAR!
HARDLY THAT BIG A HEIST!
BUT IT'S THAT CURFEW HOUR- THAT PUT A SPOTLIGHT ON IT!
A SPOTLIGHT HMMM WELL LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DIG UP TONIGHT!


THAT EVENING, AS THE HOURS GO BY THE BATMAN TUNES IN THE GRAPEVINE SEEKING OUT HIS BEST TIPSTERS, CHIRPERS, AND STOOLIES...ALL TO NO AVAIL...


ANDY NOVAK-- ONE OF BJ'S CREW-- FLAGGING ME DOWN?!

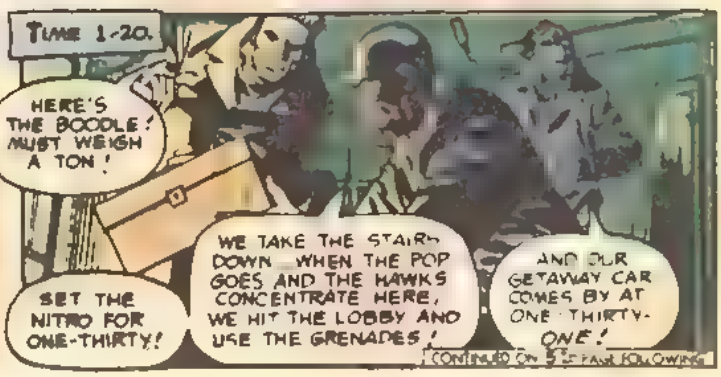

--HE WANTED BJ TO LAY DOWN THIS ONE O'CLOCK CURFEW UNTIL I GOT HEAVY PUBLICITY!
IN RETURN HE'D FINGER TWO SWEET GUARANTEED CAPERS- BUT THEY HADDA BE PULLED DURING THE CURFEW!


LAST NIGHT WAS THE FIRST-- THE SECOND GOES TONIGHT--AFTER WHICH THE CURFEW ENDS!
THE REAL CAPER IS AT THE COLISEUM-- THAT COIN CONVENTION--THE DANIEL FLETCHER COMPANY!
WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO DOUBLE-CROSS BJ?



TIME. 12:30 A.M.
ALL QUIET, BATMAN! NOBODY CAN BEAT OUR SECURITY SYSTEM BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO LOOK AROUND!
THANKS CAPTAIN! I'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR UP MYSELF!

TIME 1:18.. INSIDE THE RENTED SHOWROOM OF THE DANIEL FLETCHER COMPANY...
EVERYTHING GROOVING, JUST AS PROMISED-- THE ALARM-- THE DOOR--AND THE KEISTER SHOULD BE TAPIOCA!
SPECIALLY SINCE WE GOT THE COMBO!


TIME 1:20.
HERE'S THE BOODLE! MUST WEIGH A TON!
SET THE NITRO FOR ONE-THIRTY!
WE TAKE THE STAIRS DOWN WHEN THE POP GOES AND THE HAWKS CONCENTRATE HERE. WE HIT THE LOBBY AND USE THE GRENADES!
AND OUR GETAWAY CAR COMES BY AT ONE-THIRTY-ONE!

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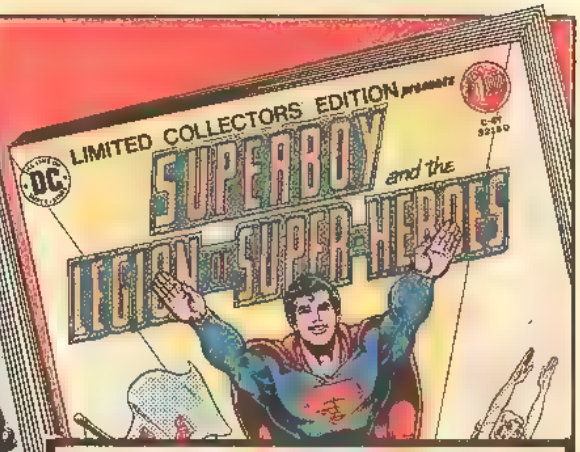

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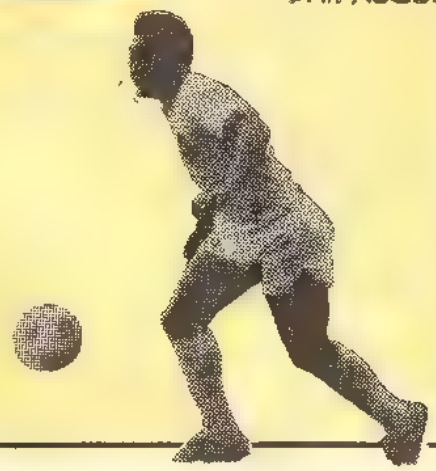

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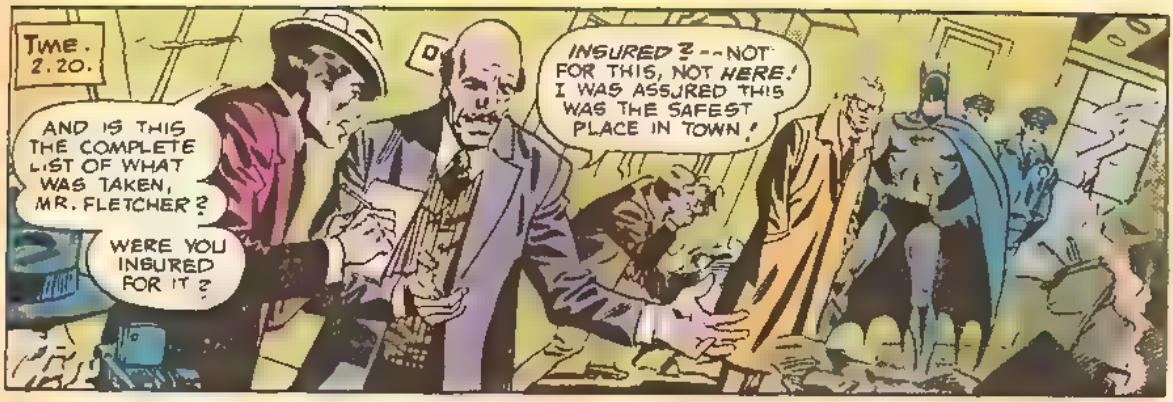
JULY 14	TAMPA	WED. 7:30
JULY 18	WASHINGTON	SUN. 2 PM
JULY 28	DALLAS	WED. 7:30
AUG 10	MIAMI	TUES. 7:30

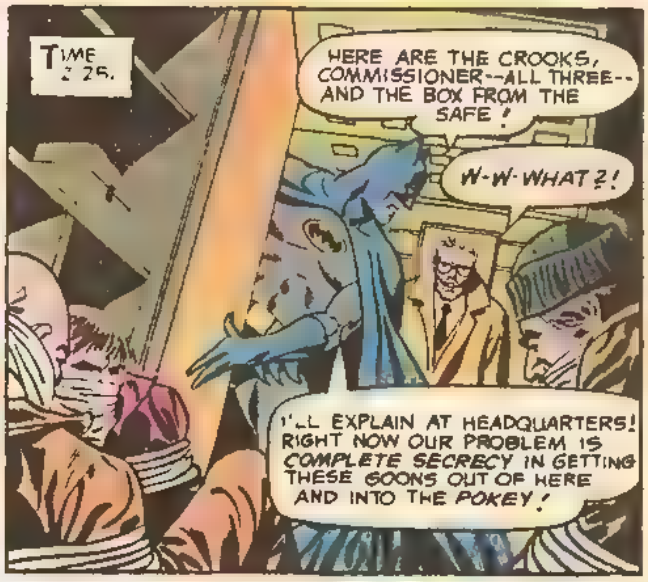
PRESENT THIS COUPON AT TICKET BOOTHS ON DAY OF GAME
NOT FOR RESALE - ONE PERSON PER COUPON.

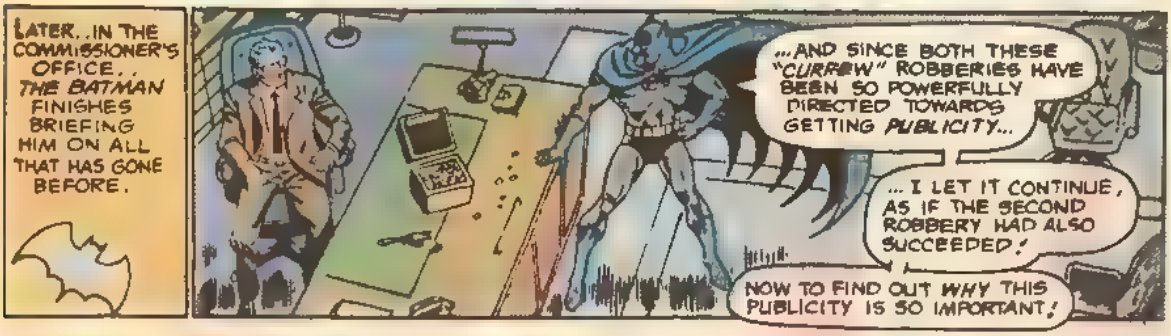
TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE IN IT!
WHA--? HIM AGAIN?
PZT PZTT
I APPRECIATE THE SILENCERS, FELLERS--
SOCK!
--THIS WAY WE CAN KEEP THE PARTY PRIVATE!
THUMP!

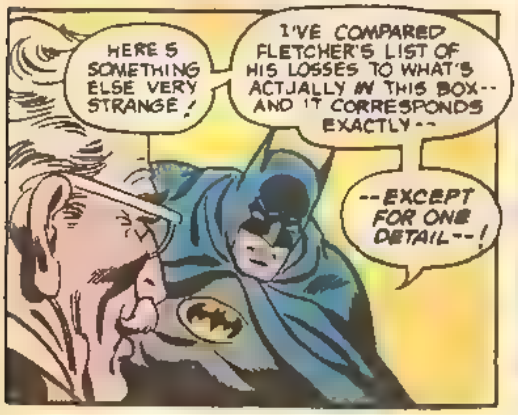
I GOT A CAN FULL OF SOUP, BATMAN!
ONE MOVE AND THE WHOLE JOINT BLOWS!
YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT!
YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO LIVE FOR--
TONK
--LIKE TEN YEARS IN THE CAGE!
TIME: 1.26.
NITRO'S STILL SET--AND TICKING AWAY! JUST LONG ENOUGH TO...
TIME: 1.30.
BAAARROOOM!
TIME: 1.35
CAPTAIN, I GOT HERE RIGHT AFTER THE BLAST AND THERE WAS NO ONE IN SIGHT!
THEY'D PROBABLY HIDDEN IN THE BUILDING BEFORE IT CLOSED--AND THEY MUST STILL BE HERE!
NO, BATMAN, WE'VE COVERED EVERYTHING! I CAN'T FIGURE IT!
THAT WAS SOME BOMB!
CONTINUED ON 5 MP PAGE FOLLOWING

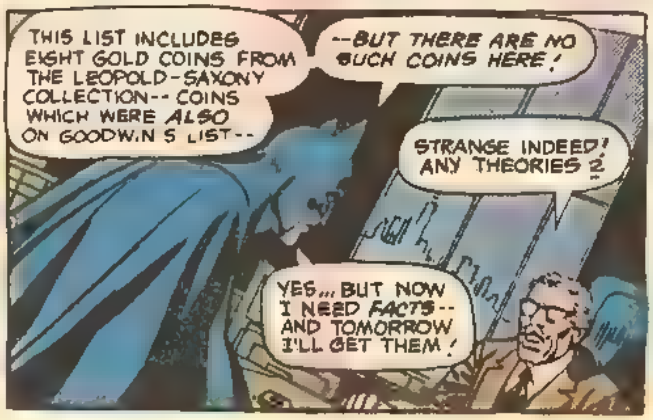

TIME. 2.20.
AND IS THIS THE COMPLETE LIST OF WHAT WAS TAKEN, MR. FLETCHER?
WERE YOU INSURED FOR IT?
INSURED?--NOT FOR THIS, NOT HERE! I WAS ASSURED THIS WAS THE SAFEST PLACE IN TOWN!

TIME: 2 24.
GOT A STATEMENT, BATMAN?
NOPE--YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE STORY! THERE'S NOTHING TO ADD!
NOW EVERYONE OUT! I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE HERE WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON!


TIME: 2 25.
HERE ARE THE CROOKS, COMMISSIONER--ALL THREE--AND THE BOX FROM THE SAFE!
W-W-WHAT?!
I'LL EXPLAIN AT HEADQUARTERS! RIGHT NOW OUR PROBLEM IS COMPLETE SECRECY IN GETTING THESE GOONS OUT OF HERE AND INTO THE POKEY!


LATER..IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.. THE BATMAN FINISHES BRIEFING HIM ON ALL THAT HAS GONE BEFORE.
...AND SINCE BOTH THESE "CURFEW" ROBBERIES HAVE BEEN SO POWERFULLY DIRECTED TOWARDS GETTING PUBLICITY...
...I LET IT CONTINUE, AS IF THE SECOND ROBBERY HAD ALSO SUCCEEDED!
NOW TO FIND OUT WHY THIS PUBLICITY IS SO IMPORTANT!


HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE VERY STRANGE!
I'VE COMPARED FLETCHER'S LIST OF HIS LOSSES TO WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THIS BOX--AND IT CORRESPONDS EXACTLY--
--EXCEPT FOR ONE DETAIL--!


THIS LIST INCLUDES EIGHT GOLD COINS FROM THE LEOPOLD-SAXONY COLLECTION--COINS WHICH WERE ALSO ON GOODWIN'S LIST--
--BUT THERE ARE NO SUCH COINS HERE!
STRANGE INDEED! ANY THEORIES?
YES... BUT NOW I NEED FACTS--AND TOMORROW I'LL GET THEM!

NEXT DAY, BRUCE WAYNE CONSULTS A NOTED AUTHORITY ON NUMISMATICS--PROFESSOR NOLA ROBERTS-
YES, I NOTICED THAT BOTH ROBBERIES INCLUDED PARTS OF THE LEOPOLD-SAXONY COLLECTION--A FASCINATING COINCIDENCE, CONSIDERING ITS HISTORY!
PLEASE GO ON...
THE GOTH... THE ONLY CRIME IN TOWN--AGAIN!
THE ARCHDUKE LEOPOLD OF SAXONY MINTED ONLY TWENTY-FIVE OF THESE COINS AS A BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR HIS WIFE IN 1684!
EVENTUALLY, THE COLLECTION BECAME SCATTERED, AND TODAY ANY OF THE COINS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE!
BUT IF THE COLLECTION WERE COMPLETE, THEIR VALUE WOULD MULTIPLY MANY TIMES--PERHAPS A MILLION DOLLARS IN ALL!
AND NOW IT APPEARS THAT FOURTEEN OF THE COINS HAD BEEN GATHERED BY THESE TWO ROBBERY VICTIMS, GOODWIN AND FLETCHER!
HMMM... WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THE OTHER ELEVEN COINS ARE?
YES... AS A MATTER OF FACT, A MR. GEORGE WHITFLEET--RIGHT HERE IN GOTHAM--HAS ALL ELEVEN!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PROFESSOR! YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN HELPFUL...
... IN WHAT WAY?
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A PROFOUND NEW INTEREST IN NUMISMATICS!
THAT NIGHT, AS MIDNIGHT APPROACHES, THE BATMAN IS IN THE THIRD HOUR OF A LONELY VIGIL...
AN ATLAS ARMORED TRUCK!
IS THIS IT?

THE TRUCK STOPS... THE ATLAS MEN GET OUT... START TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOUSE--WHEN--
KEEP YOUR HANDS UP--AND WALK INTO THOSE BUSHES!
AS
LAS
STAY OUT OF THIS, ATLAS-MEN! THESE PHONIES ARE ALL MINE!
CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
SOME KIDS FROM ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD DID THIS!
FOR NO REASON!
BUT THE POLICE CAUGHT THEM IN THE ACT!
SO THEY'VE BEEN ARRESTED?
YEAH, BUT THE POLICEMEN SEEMED TO BE ON *THEIR* SIDE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY READ THEM THEIR RIGHTS, TOLD THEM THAT THEY HAD A RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT, AND HAD A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY. WELL . WHAT ABOUT *US*?
HOLD IT, BOYS! *YOU* AND EVERYONE HAVE THESE SAME RIGHTS RIGHTS ARE FOR EVERYONE! IN OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, ONLY A COURT OF LAW IS ALLOWED TO DECIDE GUILT!
TO MAKE SURE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE, THE RULES MUST BE THE SAME FOR EVERYONE. SO, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO KNOW HIS RIGHTS.
NOW - WHY DON'T WE CLEAN UP SOME OF THIS MESS

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ARTWORK DONATED BY CONTINUITY ASSOCIATES, INC

BATMANIA

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

BATMAN UTILITY BELT-- WEAR WHAT THE MOST FAMOUS CRIMEFIGHTER IN SUPERHERODOM WEARS. FEATURING BAT-CUFFS, BAT RAY, BAT GRAPPLER, & BAT WALKI-TALKI!-- AND AN EXTRA-SPECIAL BONUS -- BAT BUCKLE! THE COMPLETE SET -- ONLY $4.49 & 69¢ FOR POS. & HAND.

BATPLANE-- BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO FLY THE NEW, IMPROVED BAT PLANE! COMPLETE WITH HIGH-FLYING BAT-LAUNCHER! IT GLIDES, SOARS, TURNS TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT! REAL BAT FUN! ONLY-- $2.69 & 69¢ FOR POSTAGE & HANDLING.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ORDER A MEGO SUPERHERO DOLL FOR YOUR VERY OWN. EACH ONE IS 8" HIGH, MADE OF BENDABLE, POSABLE PLASTIC, WITH COSTUMES MADE OF REAL CLOTH! ONLY-- $3.79 & 59¢ POSTAGE & HANDLING.

ALSO AVAILABLE: PENGUIN, AQUAMAN, RIDDLER, CAT WOMAN, MR. MXYZPTK, JOKER.

BATH TOWELS-- TREMENDOUS, TITANIC, STUPENDOUS BAT...ER, BATH... TOWELS, MADE OF 100% COTTON AND MEASURING A GIGANTIC 32" BY 60"-- AND FEATURING YOUR FAVORITE FLASHY, FUNKY, SUPERHEROS! ONLY-- $4.19 EA. & 69¢ FOR POSTAGE & HANDLING.

--AND, NEW-- GREEN ARROWCAR! THE GREEN ARROW IS ON HIS WAY TO SAVE THE DAY. PRESS THE HIDDEN LEVER AND LAUNCH THE GREEN SUPER ARROWS! BRILLIANTLY COLORED & MADE OF DURABLE POLY-STYRENE! ONLY-- $5.95 & 69¢ POST & HAND

FIGURES NOT INCLUDED

SEND TO: MEG MERCHANDISE, P.O. BOX 777, DOVER, N.J. 07801 DEPT. 7A

PLEASE ALLOW FOUR WEEKS FOR DELIVERY.

PLEASE RUSH ME THE ITEMS CHECKED BELOW. I HAVE ENCLOSED MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR $ _____

☐ UTILITY BELT....$5.18* ☐ BATPLANE....$3.38ea.
☐ BATH TOWELS....$4.88ea. ☐ G.A. CAR....$6.64 ea.
MEGO DOLLS 4.38 ea. (INDICATE TOWELS & DOLLS)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____
☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____

* INCLUDES POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

NAME _____

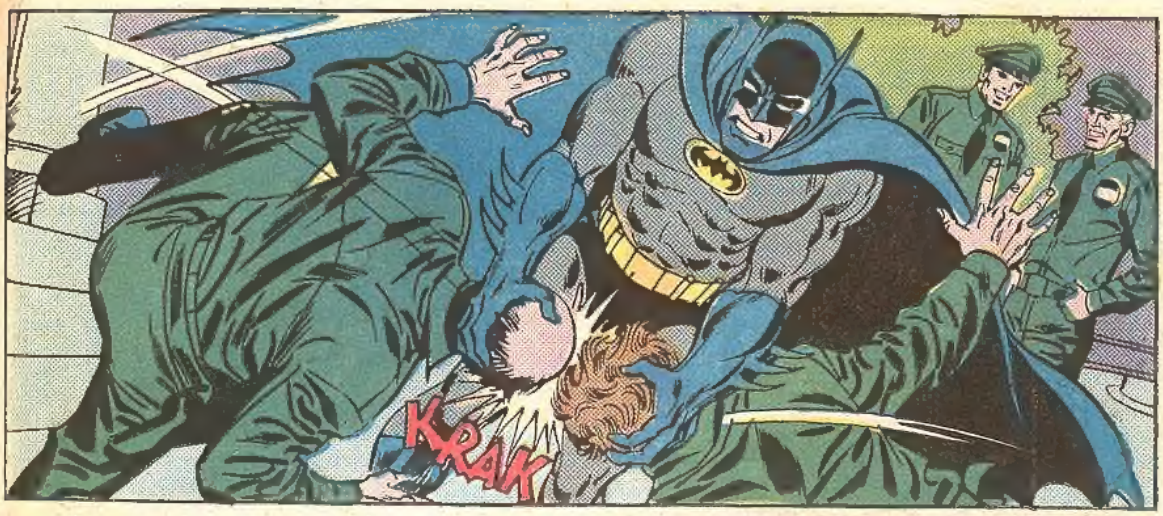
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

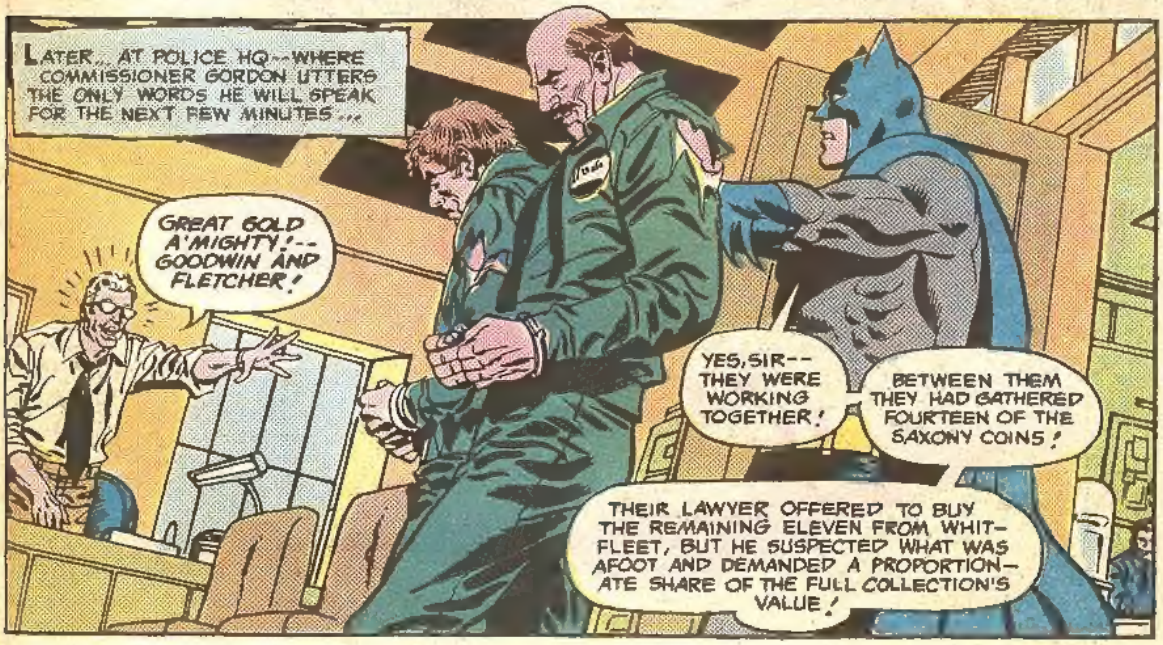
STATE _____ ZIP _____

CANADIAN ORDERS ADD 50¢. U.S. FUNDS ONLY.

VISIT THE SUPERHERO SHOP, CENTER GROVE RD. & RT. 10, RANDOLPH, N.J. (201) 361-6327

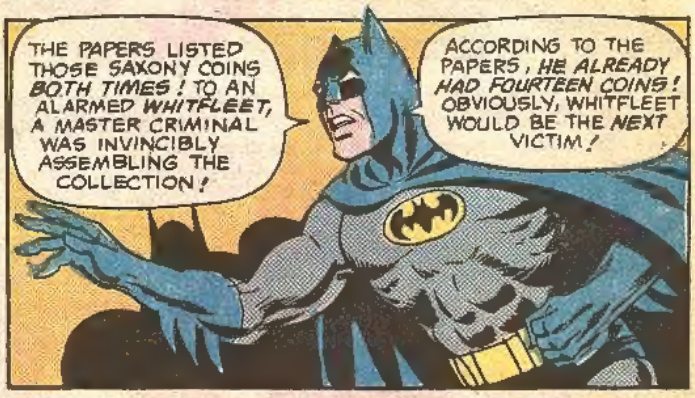

KRAK

THE BATMAN!? WHAT--
BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT, MR. WHITFLEET!
RILEY?... YEP, ME AGAIN!
GET READY FOR ANOTHER DELIVERY-- IN AN ARMORED TRUCK!


LATER... AT POLICE HQ--WHERE COMMISSIONER GORDON UTTERS THE ONLY WORDS HE WILL SPEAK FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES...
GREAT GOLD A'MIGHTY!-- GOODWIN AND FLETCHER!
YES, SIR-- THEY WERE WORKING TOGETHER!
BETWEEN THEM THEY HAD GATHERED FOURTEEN OF THE SAXONY COINS!
THEIR LAWYER OFFERED TO BUY THE REMAINING ELEVEN FROM WHITFLEET, BUT HE SUSPECTED WHAT WAS AFOOT AND DEMANDED A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE FULL COLLECTION'S VALUE!

IT WOULD'VE PAID TO DO IT, BUT INSTEAD THEY RESOLVED TO *STEAL* THE COINS! AND THE NUMISMATIC CONVENTION PROVIDED THE CHANCE!
GOODWIN--IN *DISGUISE*--MADE THAT DEAL WITH *BIG JAKE*--THE *ONE HOUR CRIME-CURFEW* IN EXCHANGE FOR TWO SURE VICTIMS!

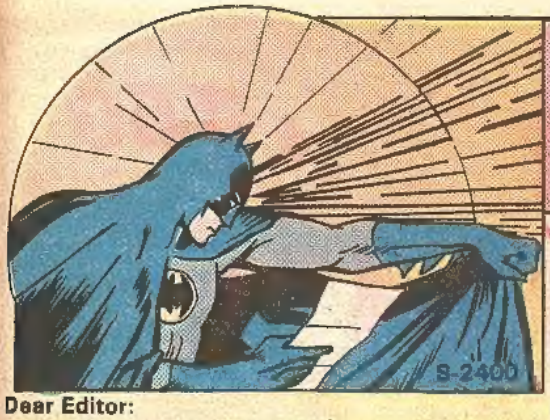
THEY THEMSELVES WERE THE VICTIMS!
THEY HELPED BJ'S HOODS ROB THEM--*AND THE CURFEW ASSURED MAXIMUM PUBLICITY!*
BJ WAS PAID OFF BY THE ROBBERIES--EVERYTHING LISTED *EXCEPT THE SAXONY COINS*--WHICH, OF COURSE, GOODWIN AND FLETCHER STILL HAD!


THE PAPERS LISTED THOSE SAXONY COINS *BOTH TIMES!* TO AN ALARMED *WHITFLEET*, A MASTER CRIMINAL WAS INVINCIBLY ASSEMBLING THE COLLECTION!
ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, *HE ALREADY HAD FOURTEEN COINS!* OBVIOUSLY, WHITFLEET WOULD BE THE *NEXT* VICTIM!

WHITFLEET'S COINS WERE AT HOME, ABSOLUTELY SECURE IN A SECRET CELLAR VAULT!
NEVERTHELESS, THE NEWS ACCOUNTS SHOOK HIM SO BADLY, HE DECIDED TO SHIP HIS COINS ELSEWHERE!
THUS, WHEN *ATLAS* ARRIVED, GOODWIN AND FLETCHER WERE THERE, READY TO TAKE OVER--

--*BUT SO WAS I!*
AND NOW, COMMISSIONER, YOU CAN CALL IN THE NEWS VULTURES AND STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT!

EPILOGUE:
BUT, BRUCE, I BROUGHT ALL THESE LOVELY COIN CATALOGUES YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE...
LATER, NOLA...MUCH LATER...
END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE SECOND WEEK IN AUGUST.



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

Usually, I can't stand Ernie Chua's covers. Why? Because there is no detail in them. But I definitely can't say that for **BATMAN #276**—the cover was beautiful, one of the best he's ever done.

Now for the inside—the art in "The Haunting of The Spook" was up to the usual par and the story was far above supreme. David V. Reed is your top writer in my opinion so don't you dare let him shift off **Batman** onto other mags.

As for **The Spook**, he is a great villain for **Batman** because he combines some of the traits of the Caped Crusader's other fantastic foes. **The Spook** is a genius (like **Ra's al Ghul**); he stumps his foe (like **The Riddler**); he has an overwhelming ego (like **The Penguin**); and he depends a lot on the supernatural (like **The Scarecrow**). I love his eyes, by the way. They show a lot of life for a man who was executed ten years ago!

You're on the right track with **Batman**—stay on it!

ROB SHERWOOD, Sharon, Pa.

(Most of our readers agree Dave's on the right Bat-track, but our next correspondent feels we've been derailed!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

David V. Reed has been scripting **Batman** stories for a year now and in that time he's proven himself quite capable of producing intriguing mystery-adventure tales. Why is it, then, that I get a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach every time I see his name on a **Batman** story?

The answer is, in a word, CAMP!

"The Haunting of The Spook" in **BATMAN #276** had the makings of a basically good story. Dave's treatment of the title character was much better than what we'd seen in previous **spook**taculars. **The Spook's** plan to trick **Batman** into retiring was well-thought-out and his ghostly tricks were adequately explained as we went along.

Yet Reed chose to ruin this fundamentally sound story with the cliched Bruce Wayne sub-plot which added nothing but a sense of **deja vu** to the story, occasionally corny dialogue, and that inane Bat-beeper. Holy Bat-thermal underwear, Dave!

In case you've forgotten, David, **The Batman** doesn't make campy jokes with punk crooks anymore. He threatens them, but he doesn't joke with them. He may have a Batmobile, a Batarang, even a Whirlybat . . . but not a Bat-beeper! (Nor, for that matter, does he wear Bat-thermal underwear!)

BRYAN UHLENBROCK, Richmond, Ca.

(Nor does he have a TV-type Robin making Bat-puns on every page, Bryan! We feel that an occasional "campy" line does not detract from the story, but instead adds to it by breaking some of the tension. So look for more of the same in Dave's future scripts, but you can rest assured he won't go overboard.—BR)

Dear Editor:

Fantastic! The return of **The Spook** made **BATMAN #276** the best one David V. Reed has turned out so far, proving that he can work as well with **Batman's** costumed foes as he can with regular-looking crooks.

And I must compliment Ernie Chua. I usually don't go for his version of **Batman**, but this time he really did a great job. Now if Ernie would only go to work on Bruce Wayne—he could use a haircut and some better-fitting clothes!

MIKE CHRISTIANSEN, Rockford, Ill.

(Ernie claims he would dress just like Bruce if HE were a millionaire playboy, so that's how he's going to draw our hero!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Gothamites,

Bob Rozakis tells me that the anonymous David V. Reed is **not** Editor Schwartz's cousin Julian Shucks, I knew that! Reed is **really** the spy in the Galaxy Communications Building!

PETER SANDERSON, New York, N.Y.

(Wrong again, Peter, but our next LoCer has cracked the case!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Bob,

For the past few months you have been teasing readers with challenges and hints to the true identity of Coram Nobis/David V. Reed. I played the little game of scrambling the letters, tried to analyze his style, thought of other appropriate names, all to no avail. The mystery seemed too dark to penetrate.

Until I was reading Bill Bower's excellent fanzine **OUTWORLDS** and found out some rather interesting facts about early science-fiction fandom. What Robert Lowndes was writing about triggered a memory of the name of an early fantasy fan and pro writer. So I pulled out my copy of Sam Moskowitz's **THE IMMORTAL STORM** and looked up the name David V. Reed. (Ah, I should have remembered that Julius Schwartz used to be an agent for a number of sf writers!) Suffice it to say that I have finally solved the mystery. David V. Reed is really **David Vern!**

NICK A. GRASSEL, Ortonville, Mich.

(Legally, you're absolutely correct, Nick, but now, we'll start a new game among our readers: WHO is David Vern? More clues in upcoming issues from—Bob Rozakis)